improvement except in the stretch from Wazirabad in Delhi to Agra owing to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river. In this connection, an Integrated Action Plan has been formulated by the Ministry of Urban Development with implementation by the concerned Implementing Agencies.

Red Jungle Fowl

2318. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Wild Red Jungle Fowl, has started to disappear from the country and whether fearing its extinction, Government have decided to undertake the first national survey to identify the exact number of pure Red Jungle Fowl still alive and then launch a management and conservation plan to protect the birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No scientific study on population estimate of Red Jungle Fowl is available. However, on the basis of lesser sightings of the bird in its natural habitat, a decline in its population appears to have taken place. Red Jungle Fowl is an important species as it is considered the real ancestor of domestic chicken. Considering these facts, National Board of Wildlife in its last meeting held on 19.06.2006 has approved the creation of a Specialist Group to prepare an Action Plan for the conservation of the Red Jungle Fowl. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has also taken up a research project on conservation of Red Jungle Fowl.

Loss of dense forests in Southern States

2319. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Southern States have seen a loss of area under dense forests;